(c) While development of Small Scale Industries is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, the Central Government has taken several steps to improve their performace by implementing various schemes for Integrated Infrastructure Development, technology upgradation, marketing and entrepreneurial development etc. In addition, on 30th August 2000, the Prime Minister announced a Comprehensive Policy Package for the promotion and development of Small Scale Sector to enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally.The policy package consists of enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

Postponement of 'Mission to Moon' Programme

†313. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to postpone the space programme 'Mission to Moon' if not, by when the project would be completed and the amount likely to be spent thereon;

(b) whether this project has been taken up to maintain parity with the neighbouring countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. The National Task Team's technical report on the proposed unmanned mission to moon is under review. Only after considering all aspects, including the scientific objectives, the cost and schedule of the project will be available.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Meteorological Satellite

314. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the second week of September, 2002, ISRO successfully launched METSAT;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) with the launch of the meteorological satellite how the meteorogical services presently being provided by INSAT would improve;

(c) whether the METSAT has been commissioned into service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Meterological Satellite (METSAT) carries a Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR) designed to obtain images of the Earth in the visible, thermal infrared and water vapour channels of the electromagnetic spectrum. Being a geostationary satellite, METSAT enables continuous, round the clock monitoring of the weather system. The addition of water vapour channel in METSAT enables inference of the moisture content as well as helps in deriving indirectly . the winds in the middle atmosphere. Together with the data from visible and infrared channels, this water vapour channel information is expected to add valuable information towards weather forecasting. METSAT also carries a Data Relay Transponder (DRT) enabling collection of meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic data from remote and inaccessible areas over land.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. METSAT has been commissioned into operational service and the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has been making use of data from METSAT in their weather services on a regular basis.

Demand of fee for using transponders

315. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Department of Space is now demanding Rs. 500 crores as fee from Prasar Bharati for using its transponders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE DER^RTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Department of Space had requested Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to pay for the INSAT transponder capacity utilised.The total amount payable by Ministry